

## REMARKS


Claims 1, 3-10, 12-19 and 21-26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Strickland et al. (US 5,867,806) in view of Howells et al. (US 4,556,884). Applicant has amended the claims to place them in condition for allowance.

Independent claims 1, 10 and 19 were amended to further clarify and distinguish the invention. Dependent claims 3-5 and 21-22 were also amended accordingly. Applicant submits that these amendments represent novel and nonobvious features of the invention that do not raise new issues. Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1, 3-10, 12-19 and 21-26 are allowable and requests withdrawal of the rejections. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would be advantageous in advancing the prosecution of this application, he is invited to call the undersigned at (281) 285-4562.

Schlumberger Technology Corporation  
Sugar Land Product Center  
IP Law and Contracts Dept.  
200 Gillingham Lane, MD-9  
Sugar Land, Texas 77478  
(281) 285-4562  
(281) 285-8821 Fax  
Date 1-Feb-05

Respectfully submitted,

  
Victor H. Segura  
Reg. No. 44,329  
Attorney for Assignee